

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03

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R 100300Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

SECDEF

JCS

S E C R E T STATE 171387

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SN, UK, US

SUBJECT: SEMBAWANG FACILITIES, SINGAPORE

REF: A. SINGAPORE 2862; B. LONDON 08808.

1. WE NOTE HMG "UNDERSTANDING" REPORTED REF B THAT U.S. MIGHT WISH TO HAVE WRITTEN ASSURANCE FROM GOS THAT IT WOULD WAIVE PORT FEES. REFTTEL FURTHER COMMENTED GOS MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO DO SO IN WRITING NOTWITHSTANDING RECENT INDICATION THAT GOS NO LONGER INTENDED IMPOSE PORT FEES ON U.S. WARSHIPS USING BERTHS 6 AND 7. WE AGREE WITH REF A'S

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CLARIFICATION ON THIS POINT, FOR NO SUCH DESIRE FOR

"WRITTEN ASSURANCES" HAS BEEN INDICATED. WE DO, HOWEVER, ENDORSE REF A SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF MINUTES OF UK-GOS DISCUSSIONS CLEARLY INDICATED GOS UNDERSTANDING THAT UK WOULD ALLOW US TO USE THESE BERTHS, AND FCO SHOULD BE SO ADVISED.

2. DURING RN-USN DISCUSSIONS ON 3 JUNE TO REVIEW STATUS OF SERVICE TO SERVICE TALKS ON MANAGEMENT OF BERTHS, POL DEPOT AND USN ACCESS THERETO, UK SIDE RAISED QUESTION OF GOING AHEAD WITH CONCLUSION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN RN-USN WHILE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOS WERE IN PROGRESS AND AS YET UNRESOLVED. SUBJECT TO CAVEATS CONCERNING FINANCIAL PROVISIONS USN HAS ACQUIESCED. ACCORDINGLY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS SIGNED BETWEEN DESIGNATED USN/RN REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON 28 JUNE 1976.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH FCO AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL WITH INFORMATION REPORTED ABOVE STATING USG IS NOW HOPEFUL THAT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HMG AND GOS ON MANAGEMENT OF SENOKO POL FACILITIES AND BERTHS 6 AND 7 MAY NOW PROCEED TO EARLY AND SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION.

4. SERVICE TO SERVICE DISCUSSIONS ON NPW VISITS ISSUE CONTINUE. DRAFT ALLUDED TO IN REF B HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND IS NOW BEING STUDIED BY USN. COPIES BEING POUCHED LONDON, SINGAPORE AND CINCPAC FOR YOUR INFORMATION. KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PORT CHARGES, NAVAL SHIPS, PORT CALLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE171387
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WSSHEPARD:OSD/ISA:COL.HSCHING:LGR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760266-1153
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760770/aaaacjun.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SINGAPORE 2862, 76 LONDON 8808
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by buchanta0>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEMBAWANG FACILITIES, SINGAPORE
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SN, UK, US
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006